



# PRESERVATION IN PROGRESS

Vol. IV, No. 4

January 2000

## 1999 Year End Report

### *Virginia's Sustainable Future:* **Solutions Through Historic Preservation**

Virginia's booming economy presents both a tremendous opportunity and a challenge for its citizens. Economic prosperity provides us with the means and the obligation to take stock of what is truly important. Historic preservation can play a vital part in building a sustainable future for our environment, businesses, and communities.

Development decisions to reuse historic buildings benefit us greatly. Rejuvenating already developed areas conserves remaining open space, eliminating outward expansion and the need to create new and expensive infrastructures. Through state and federal tax credits, historic resources become engines for community revitalization. They preserve the integrity and vitality of the community, creating a magnet for new investment. Careful stewardship of historic resources creates communities with a strong sense of identity and place. That identity makes local heritage real and meaningful for the people who live and work there and who travel to visit.

### In This Issue:

The Year End Report is divided into three sections, each containing a report summary and highlights of DHR preservation programs.

- **Facts and Figures**
- **Sustaining Communities**
- **Educating for the Future**
- **Taking Care of Our Resources – Stewardship**



*Resource stewardship – at the core of DHR programs and services.*

The Virginia Department of Historic Resources (DHR) helps individuals and communities realize these important benefits of preservation through a broad range of incentives and services. Preservation happens because communities and property owners want it to happen. As you will see in the report that follows, requests for preservation programs and services are increasing as citizens understand that we have the opportunity today to create a vital Virginia for tomorrow. That is the challenge, and our choices will make the difference.

# 1999 Facts & Figures

**Cost Share Program** – a state and local partnership for survey and planning

- § Contracts awarded: 21 – up 162% over 1995\*
- § Total value of projects: \$530,089

**State and National Register**

New nominations: 81 – up 131% over 1992

**Tax Act Programs**

- § Applications: 118 – up 237% over 1996
- § Completed projects: 46
- § Rehabilitation expenditures: \$116,471,805

**Certified Local Governments**

- § Total CLGs: 24
- § Grants: 13 managed
- § Applications:  
Received : 11, requesting \$157,110 in matching grants – 145% increase as compared to 1995  
Selected: 6, allotted \$65,651 in matching grants

**State Preservation Grants**

75 monitored – an increase of 650% over 1993

**Easements**

New easements: 25 – up 257% as compared to 1994

**Project Review**

2,900 projects reviewed

**Archives**

- § 997 visitors
- § 1,173 off-site inquiries
- § 2,150 total requests served – up 65% over 1997
- § Properties added to the state inventory and entered into DHR database: 8,397
- § Digitized data on archaeological records: 31,500

**Archaeology**

- § Collections accessioned: 39
- § Collections loaned: 16

**Archaeological Threatened Sites Program**

12 projects, representing all regions of the state including the Eastern Shore

**Localities Served**

Cost Share: 36	Planning: 25
Register: 69	CLGs: 32
Tax Act: 33	Highway Markers: 56
Easements: 37	Agencies Assisted: 25

**Community Awareness Campaign**

170 toolboxes distributed to community leaders

**TimeTravelers Program**

- § Participating museums: 180
- § Students: 3,406
- § Site visits: 20,436
- § Web site hits: 15,000

**Highway Markers**

New and replacement markers: 123 – 392% increase as compared to 1993

**Audiences Reached**

- § Newsletter and *Notes on Virginia*: 5,300
- § Media coverage: 1,871,742

**Publications Distributed**

- § Archaeology reports: 91
- § Guidance and technical assistance publications: 3,000
- § *Virginia Landmarks of Black History*: 374
- § *First People*: 619
- § *Guide to Virginia's Highway Markers*: 1,167

**Web Site** [www.dhr.state.va.us](http://www.dhr.state.va.us)

- § Hits: 12,987 per month
- § Users: 1,976 per month

**Planning**

124 outside agencies aided in preservation planning

**Presentations** 104

**Public Meetings** 22

**Workshops** 49

\* *Note: Comparisons are based on years from which the programs cited changed in service delivery, administration, or funding.*

# Sustaining Communities

---

Demand for DHR services grew in 1999 as more property owners, developers, investors, and local government officials sought to reap the cultural, economic, environmental, and community revitalization benefits of historic preservation. While social and natural upheavals took the headlines, preservation efforts quietly offered tools to create stable and sustainable communities.

Stewardship of communities throughout the Commonwealth begins with taking stock of existing resources. With a \$100,000 increase in appropriations, for a total of \$220,000 for the year, 21 localities conducted surveys of their historic resources, a 162% increase over surveys in 1995. Identifying significant resources leads to requests that they be recognized and appreciated as such: more than 81 properties were nominated to the Virginia and national registers. The nomination rate in 1999 nearly doubled the annual average of the past four years. Property owners and localities requested recognition for a wide range of resources, including African American schools and churches, 10 iron industry furnaces, a World War II tugboat, and eight historic districts.

Knowing that a property is an important community asset spurs private property owners and investors to develop those sites. Through December 1, use of the state and federal rehabilitation tax credits increased to 118 new projects, up 237% over 1996 (see p. 4). Private investment in these completed and proposed projects totals an estimated \$116,471,805. Staff members responded to Hurricane Floyd in hard-hit areas such as the city of Franklin with information about the tax credits to aid in the recovery of the Franklin historic district. They established an emergency response system to assist localities in future natural disasters.

Twenty-four local governments participated in Virginia's Certified Local Government (CLG) program. In addition to recognizing sound local preservation programs with effective preservation ordinances and well-trained review boards, the CLG program strongly encourages local review boards to serve as active preservation educators in their communities. At the second statewide CLG workshop, held in May in Petersburg, more than 100

participants from 35 communities learned how to work effectively with local elected officials, find common ground with developers, and enhance Virginia's outstanding legacy of African American heritage sites. Six localities – the cities of Fairfax, Richmond, and Suffolk, and the towns of Leesburg, Middleburg, and Pulaski – received CLG grants totaling \$65,651 in 1999.

Less easily measured, but very much on the increase, are greater demands for leadership and coordination in encouraging heritage tourism product development and partnerships. This increase stems largely from the Administration's emphasis on the economic benefits of tourism, combined with the

---

**“Nationwide you are seeing a major shift. People are...tired of commuting. They want to be closer to their work, to restaurants, and to nightlife.”**

**— Robin Miller, developer and owner of historic downtown Richmond properties**

---

Department's role in TimeTravelers, Celebration 2007, and the Virginia Cultural Network. As a member of the Museums on the Boulevard, a consortium of seven of the state's leading museums and cultural institutions in Richmond, the Department took the lead in developing a Vision Plan for the six-mile Boulevard corridor, in a project sponsored by the American Society of Landscape Architects. As convener of the Virginia Cultural Network, comprised of 12 of the state's major museum and cultural institutions, the Department is creating a list serve to enable players to easily communicate and leverage resources in heritage tourism development.

Private citizens, historical societies, other organizations, and federal funds paid for 123 highway markers, up 392% over 1993. Forty-nine of these were missing or outdated signs. A means of commemorating state and national heritage, more than 2,200 markers have been placed along the

*See “Summary,” continued on page 5*

## Tax Credit Program



*Tobacco Row, Richmond – owners of this register property utilized tax credits in its rehabilitation.*

store; Tobacco Row, the conversion of a cigarette plant into hundreds of apartments in downtown Richmond; and Buckingham Village, the \$24 million rehabilitation of affordable housing units in Arlington County.

One of Virginia's high-profile tax credit projects is the Appomattox Regional Governor's School, a state-of-the-art facility in a rehabilitated vacant municipal property in Petersburg. The success of the project hinges on the harnessing of tax credits – \$8 million – to make feasible the recycling of an existing structure into a cutting-edge educational facility. In rehabilitating certified historic structures, individuals, trusts, estates, or corporations are eligible to participate in the program and receive a tax credit equal to 25% of allowable expenses in the year 2000 and beyond. State tax credits can be coupled with other incentives such as low-cost housing and enterprise zone credits, as well as the federal credits. Because buildings must be historically significant to qualify for the tax credits, the program is increasing demand for official recognition of properties through registration. By spawning the reuse of historic structures, the program attracts investment for community revitalization.

## Cost Share

Communities around Virginia are taking stock of their historic resources through the innovative Survey and Planning Cost Share program. In a partnership with DHR, interested local governments identify and evaluate historic buildings and sites within a locality. The partnership is simple, and the only one of its kind in the United States. Each year, DHR accepts proposals from local governments to conduct survey, register, and planning activities. The communities selected for the year enter into a contract with the Department in which the local government sends a percentage of the project cost to DHR, and in return, DHR pays a portion of the remaining costs and serves as project administrator. The Department hires the consultant, pays the bills, and monitors the work – a big relief to often overworked local planning offices. Statewide, Virginians are taking advantage of this user-friendly program – there were 21 projects this year, up 162% over 1995. The General Assembly, supporting the important outcomes of the program, increased its

What do La Difference, Tobacco Row, and Buckingham Village have in common? They are among the increasing number of tax credit rehabilitation projects in Virginia. This year, more than 118 property owners applied for tax credits, up 237% over 1996 rates. Their projects represent an extraordinary range of rehabilitation efforts and are creating a boom in properties nominated to the Virginia register. The Virginia Rehabilitation Tax Credit Program, which began in 1997, reduces the taxpayer's liability, making possible such projects as La Difference, a \$4.5 million warehouse rehabilitation now housing an upscale furniture



*Illustrated reports and tourism guides are among the products of Cost Share.*

appropriation from \$120,000 to \$220,000 for 1999-2000. The total value of the projects is \$530,089.

Participation continues to increase as communities understand the benefits of surveying and identifying

historic resources. Once the survey work of the program is completed, communities gain a knowledge of properties that are potentially eligible for nomination to the Virginia and national registers. They can develop and interpret significant sites in heritage tourism. They discover a strengthened sense of identity through a greater appreciation for community history. Resource tools such as survey forms, maps, electronic data, illustrated reports, and scripted slide shows produced through Cost Share aid local officials in long-term development planning. Since its beginnings in 1990, Cost Share has created partnerships with 56 localities, and more importantly, served all of Virginia in developing an accurate and accessible database of its rich and varied cultural resources.

## Community Awareness Campaign

Virginia communities now have the tools, the leaders, and the opportunity to put historic resources to work through the Community Awareness Campaign, a grassroots push to help communities use their resources for local benefit. At its center is a red toolbox containing strategies, financial incentives, and best practices for developing and implementing plans for local resources. Volunteers in 170 localities received the toolbox and have been trained in the benefits of heritage tourism, downtown revitalization, and stewardship of historic resources, creating a small army of citizens working for preservation in Virginia.

Out of the campaign, now in its second year, have come advisory committees to all four DHR regional offices. In quarterly meetings, toolbox and other local leaders act as advisors to DHR regional staff and share updates, success stories, and lessons learned about preservation efforts. Advisory committee reports indicate that the campaign is eliciting a positive response from local officials and community leaders. In the weeks leading up to National Historic Preservation Week, May 9-16, toolbox leaders proved instrumental in encouraging 28 local governments to adopt Historic Preservation Week proclamations – *a first for Virginia*. Recent preservation accomplishments reported by toolbox leaders include the proposal of an historic preservation plan in Albemarle County, 15 historical highway markers to be erected in Charles City County, a published report on a cultural heritage public forum in Fluvanna County, and work toward



*Waynesboro residents put their history to work through the toolbox campaign.*

an archaeological assessment of Lancaster County.

In its short life span, the Community Awareness Campaign has already received national attention. The National Trust for Historic Preservation requested a presentation on the toolbox campaign strategy at its spring conference in March 1999, placing a spotlight on Virginia preservation initiatives.

---

### *Summary continued from page 3*

state's main roads since the program began. As communities prepare for Celebration 2007, demand for the markers will continue to grow.

Sustaining communities means helping them weigh environmental, cultural, and business concerns for win-win outcomes. The Department reviewed more than 2,900 private and public projects for potential impact on historic resources. From proposed microwave towers to highways through historic districts, staff worked to manage positive outcomes for the highest private and public benefit.

Staff of the Department's regional offices in Petersburg, Portsmouth, Roanoke, and Winchester hosted 49 training workshops, led 22 public meetings, gave 104 public presentations, and responded promptly to requests from a wide range of citizens and groups (see p. 8). In addition to implementing the Community Awareness Campaign, regional offices monitored the progress of more than 110 state-funded preservation projects and assisted all property owners seeking to qualify their properties for register designation.

# Educating for the Future

---

The process of identifying, researching, evaluating, and developing Virginia's historic resources yields a body of information that is vital to building a sustainable future for our environment, businesses, and communities. Sharing that information through high-quality programs such as TimeTravelers (see p. 7), through workshops, exhibits, and publications, and through easier access to the information in DHR's library, archives, and archaeological collections, is another of the Department's top priorities.

A treasure of information resides in the Department's library and archives, where books, maps, survey and register reports, and photographs are available to the public on more than 136,000 archaeological sites and architectural buildings and structures, dating from 16,000 B.C. to the 20<sup>th</sup> century. Nearly 1,000 visitors used the library and archives in 1999, and 1,173 people made inquiries from off-site, a total increase of 65% over two years ago. Information on all 136,000 architectural and archaeological archival records has been entered into a descriptive database over the last three years. Records on 8,397 archaeological sites and architectural properties were added to the state inventory in 1999. This year, all 31,500 archaeological records were digitized and made available for public use in the Department archives. Next year, digitized data on all architectural records will be available electronically for public and staff use.

Visitation to the archaeological collections – the Department houses over 5 million artifacts – doubled over the past year among scholars conducting research on periods of prehistory and history in Virginia. Sixteen artifact collections were loaned to museums for research and exhibit, ranging from Colonial Williamsburg and the Virginia Historical Society to the Francis Land House in Virginia Beach. Department staff created exhibits that were displayed at the Archaeology Fair in Alexandria during Virginia Archaeology Month and at the State Fair in September.

In addition to co-sponsoring the Teacher's Institute (see p. 7), the Department's conservation lab and collection's staff hosted workshops with lasting outcomes. A lithic workshop, attended by 20

archaeologists from Virginia and surrounding states, produced 15 kits which contain lithic stone samples from the area, to be distributed to key institutions in Virginia, Maryland, and North Carolina. A "Materials Characterization" course trained 10 museum conservators in special analytical techniques. Compilation of a carbon 14 database on 300 Virginia sites will provide researchers ready access to valuable archaeological information.

---

**"The program has proved to be a tremendous incentive to parents to bring their children to local history-related attractions. Our attendance has doubled as a result of TimeTravelers."**

**— Jerry Holsworth, manager of the George Washington's Office Museum**

---

School field trip visits to the Department doubled in 1999 as middle and high school students toured the research facilities to learn how archaeological findings refine or re-define what we know about our past. Teacher requests for 21 Archaeology Resource Kits (ARKs), traveling kits about Virginia's prehistory that are loaned for classroom use, continued to grow as word-of-mouth praise for them spread.

Three archaeology reports were published over the last year to share information with the public about important findings at Great Neck in Virginia Beach, Jenkins Point in Gloucester County, and Potomac Creek in Stafford County. A previously published report on the Cactus Hill site in Sussex County, one of only nine pre-Clovis sites in the Western Hemisphere, aroused international attention with coverage in several major magazines (see p. 10). Findings at Cactus Hill are challenging previous theories about the peopling of North America, including the Bering Strait theory of passage; with clues that early migrations perhaps came from Europe instead. Due to an increase in the growth of

*See "Summary," continued on page 8*



## Virginia Archaeology

This summer, 21 Virginia teachers took on the role of students during a two-week institute called “History Underfoot, Archaeology for Teachers.” Hosted by DHR and the Virginia Historical Society (VHS), the institute included one week of lectures and hands-on experience in the labs and facilities at DHR and VHS, and one week of field school at various archaeological sites later in the summer. In-house archaeological lessons included research on colonial human remains, lectures, and the unpacking of the “Treasures from Mount Vernon” traveling exhibit under climate-controlled conditions. One participant said, “This is by far one of the most interesting, stimulating, and thought-provoking institutes I’ve ever attended. I know my own instruction will improve because of this.” The high volume of applications and enthusiastic reviews for the sessions have ensured “Archaeology for Teachers” will be offered again, making this an exciting and highly successful DHR-VHS effort.



*Summer Institute students examine a skeleton from the Smithsonian under the direction of Dr. Douglas Owsley, from the National Museum of Natural History.*

Interest in archaeology among Virginians continued into the fall culminating in October, Virginia Archaeology Month. The 1999 theme, “Held in Trust,” emphasized the statewide focus on community archaeology. Alexandria hosted a kickoff weekend in honor of its 250<sup>th</sup> anniversary highlighted by an Archaeology Fair that attracted more than 1,400 people. Thirty other institutions sponsored educational events across the state in October including exhibits, tours, and children’s events.

## TimeTravelers



*These TimeTravelers experience first-hand cannon warfare of the 1800s.*

Students and families across Virginia are raving about TimeTravelers. This travel and learning program creates a unique opportunity that is getting Virginians excited about history education. Armed with a TimeTravelers passport, students in grades K-12 travel to any of the 180 participating museums and historic sites around Virginia. Students traveling to six sites can send in their passports for TimeTravelers

certificates and t-shirts. More than 3,406 students participated in TimeTravelers this year, generating more than 20,436 site visits.

In 1999, TimeTravelers raised awareness about the George Washington Bicentennial celebration, a major statewide heritage tourism campaign. TimeTravelers visiting at least two George Washington sites received a commemorative patch, and 99% of the students participated. Though most TimeTravelers are Virginia residents, the program attracted the imagination and interest of participants from 30 other states and four countries. One Virginia TimeTraveler shared his newfound knowledge with out-of-state relatives. “Devin amazed his northern relatives with stories of the Battle of Petersburg, [and] vivid descriptions of Fort Monroe,” his grandmother Jean Curry reported, “What started as a learning tool for Devin has enriched our whole family.”

First Lady Roxane G. Gilmore served as TimeTravelers spokesman this year, appearing in a public service announcement that reached a statewide television audience. She also joined students in their adventures to TimeTravelers sites and logged accounts of her visits onto the TimeTravelers web site [www.timetravelers.org](http://www.timetravelers.org). Students who visit the site, around 15,000 this year, are encouraged to log on their own reports.

## Public Outreach

With the recent reorganization of the agency in the last four years – establishing four regional offices and moving into new, state-of-the-art headquarters in Richmond – DHR has expanded its public outreach efforts tremendously. Each work day, regional office staff members offer expertise in all program areas (see “Localities Served,” p. 2). Some outstanding examples of effective outreach by field offices in 1999 include: the Winchester office’s cooperation with the Winchester architectural review board in establishing guidelines for allowable substitute materials that could serve as a model for communities across the state; the Portsmouth office’s role as key contact and broker leading to the transfer of original drawings by the first woman architect in Virginia to archives at Virginia Tech; the Roanoke office’s cooperation with the National Trust for Historic Preservation in effecting the transfer of Danville’s historic Riverside Cotton Mills from Dan River Inc. to the Danville Historical Society for a major redevelopment project; and the Petersburg office’s initiative in promoting and organizing an architectural survey of the town of Boydton in Mecklenburg County using student volunteers from the University of Virginia.

Regional office staff hosted 49 training workshops on topics such as how to carry out local preservation surveys, how to prepare register nominations, how to apply for preservation grants, and how to qualify for the state easement and state and federal tax credit programs. Staff also partnered with local governments in co-sponsoring an Affordable Housing and Historic Preservation conference in Roanoke, a statewide Certified Local Governments conference in Petersburg, and a Living Towns workshop in Front Royal. Richmond staff made presentations at statewide conferences sponsored by the Virginia Association of Museums, the Preservation Alliance of Virginia, the Virginia Municipal League, and the Department of Environmental Quality on Sustainable Growth and on Brownfields Development. Statewide, Virginians are being educated as never before about the economic, environmental, and community benefits of preservation.

---

*Summary continued from page 6*



*Researcher uses archaeological records now available electronically.*

DHR programs and services, the annual journal *Notes on Virginia* expanded to cover reports of the increased number of properties registered, tax act credit projects approved, highway markers erected, and easements donated to the Commonwealth. *Preservation in Progress*, the Department newsletter, shifted from a regional to a statewide focus, now reporting on activities and issues from all four regions and Richmond headquarters. In all, the Department fulfilled 3,000 requests for booklets, reports, and teacher’s guides last year. Staff efforts to inform clients and the general public about

preservation benefits through *Notes*, newsletters, the DHR website ([www.dhr.state.va.us](http://www.dhr.state.va.us)), and the media reached a total audience of 1.9 million.

Most important, the new edition of the *Virginia Landmarks Register*, the Department’s flagship publication, was released in the fall of 1999. Updated for the first time in 13 years, the book contains entries on nearly 2,000 historic sites, properties, and districts individually listed on the Commonwealth’s register. An indispensable research and reference tool, the book represents the most comprehensive inventory of Virginia’s rich and varied historic resources yet produced.

At the heart of the Department’s education efforts is the creation of a permanent interpretive exhibit, “Solving History’s Mysteries: The History Discovery Lab.” The exhibit will involve participants, particularly schoolchildren, in an exciting process of historical discovery, connecting everyday objects to their place in the past, and fostering a stewardship ethic and an appreciation for history and the resources that embody our history. Department staff are engaged in the first phase of its development. A General Assembly appropriation of \$100,000 provided seed money to leverage private donations.



# Taking Care of our Resources — Stewardship

---

At the core of the Department's ability to support communities and to educate for the future is resource stewardship — taking care of the historic assets we have to revitalize Virginia, maintain its character, and build a continuum of understanding and meaning from one generation to the next. Thus, the critical third leg of the Department's priorities is to encourage resource stewardship.

Certainly the first stewards of preservation in Virginia are the property owners of the 2,000 listings on the registers. They maintain historic sites ranging from expansive colonial estates and Victorian townhouses to Indian and African American churches, Art Deco diners, wooden bridges, and movie palace theaters. This year 81 listings, including historic districts, were added to the Virginia and national registers, an increase of 131% as compared to 1992.

Led by First Lady of Virginia Roxane G. Gilmore, the restoration of the Executive Mansion is most visible example of stewardship this year (see p.11). The sensitive restoration of the mansion preserved the 1813 character of the first floor, while upgrading systems and public accessibility throughout the building. Department staff served on the Executive Committee to help plan and implement the changes, and conducted an archaeological excavation on the grounds.

Sensitive restorations or expanded programming at Virginia's historic attractions are made possible through DHR's State Grants program. State grants help owners of Virginia's cultural museums and sites maintain historic properties or enhance operations. A General Assembly appropriation totaling \$7,570,600 supported 75 grants in 1999, 650% more than the number of grants awarded in 1993. Many of these sites, such as the Danville Museum of Fine Arts and History, Ferry Farm in Fredericksburg, Poplar Forest in Lynchburg, and the Lincoln Theater in Marion are active assets in Virginia's tourism industry. Administration of these grants requires substantial and ongoing design, technical, and interpretive assistance by Department staff to ensure maximum public benefit.

As a responsible steward looking to the future

preservation of an historic property, an owner can donate a perpetual easement to the Commonwealth. An easement can convey significant tax benefits to the owner and requires that subsequent owners maintain the integrity of the property. Property owners donated 25 easements to the Commonwealth in 1999, an increase of 257% over 1994 donations. The properties ranged from the Shelly Archaeological District in Gloucester County and Boykin's Tavern in Isle of Wight County to Rochambeau in Goochland County. Three workshops held this fall informed historic property owners about the benefits of the easement program.

Since 1989, the Department has provided staffing to a board of trustees for the operation of a revolving fund to purchase abandoned and run-down historic properties and resell them to responsible owners under protective easement. To unleash the full potential of the fund as a preservation tool, its operation was transferred this year to the Association for the Preservation of Virginia Antiquities (APVA), a private preservation organization, whose principal focus is historic property management. The APVA will manage the fund in trust for the Commonwealth. This public-private partnership arrangement is the result of a Department initiative that was warmly embraced by the General Assembly.

---

**"The money we spent up front was inconsequential compared to the damage that could have been inflicted later on. I see archaeology as ordinary due diligence of any project."**

**— John A. Clark, Virginia developer**

---

Archaeological sites are jeopardized by erosion, bulldozing, and acts of vandalism. This year, the Department funded 12 projects through the Archaeological Threatened Sites program, including one site of international preeminence (see p. 10). Other projects included the Carriesbrooke Redoubt in Frederick County and George Washington's Office in Winchester. Volunteers gave thousands of hours of

**See "Summary," continued on page 11**

## Archaeological Threatened Sites



Articles about archaeology findings at Cactus Hill aroused international interest.

Every day, Virginia’s archaeological remnants, spanning 160 centuries, are bulldozed, vandalized, looted and sold, or they fall off cliffs and erode along shorelines. Virginia is one of the richest states in heritage resources, and its unprotected resources — fragile and non-renewable — are in jeopardy. Through DHR’s Archaeological Threatened Sites program, many resources are saved. It’s a big job. Sites are scattered across the 42,769 square miles of land and water in Virginia. Archaeologists in the regional offices help administer and monitor Threatened Sites projects. And since 1989, nearly 70 professionals from 15 colleges and universities, 10 cultural resource management firms, and 25 private businesses and institutions participated in the program. The success of the program relies on thousands of hours of volunteer work. Volunteers help excavate sites and analyze artifacts. One volunteer, Chris Eckard, president of

the Nansemond Chapter of the Archeological Society of Virginia, has aided several DHR offices. Assisting DHR’s archaeological staff, he developed software for a statewide artifact inventory database, and added software that compiles all radiocarbon dates from Virginia investigations. He has conducted several archaeological surveys including prehistoric campsites and an 18<sup>th</sup>-19<sup>th</sup> century shipwreck. Such volunteer work is essential to the Threatened Sites program.

This year, the Department funded projects for 12 important sites. The Williamson Site in Dinwiddie County, discovered 50 years ago, is one of the largest Paleoindian quarries and campsites in North America. Testing there found undisturbed cultural layers, thought to be more than 10,000 years old, lying just below the cultivated fields. These findings promise great research potential for expanding limited knowledge about this ancient period. Another highly significant Threatened Sites project is Cactus Hill, in Sussex County. Artifacts found there pre-date Paleoindian Clovis times, making Cactus Hill one of the oldest sites in the Western Hemisphere. These archaeological discoveries, representing what are believed to be the first people of the Americas, are causing the international community to re-examine what we know about the settling of the continent. Articles featuring work at Cactus Hill appeared over the past year in *US News & World Report*, *Newsweek*, *Mammoth Trumpet*, and *Scientific American*.

## Easements

From bed-and-breakfasts and a private elementary school to an international training center, Virginia’s easement program has helped transform many private properties to new uses that benefit both their owners and communities. Over the past 30 years, more than 250 historic properties have been protected through easements. Easements, or legal covenants that prevent demolitions and inappropriate alterations to historic resources, have preserved much of Virginia’s heritage — several hundred million dollars worth of historic properties in fair-market value. A 1991 easement placed on Berry Hill, a plantation in Halifax County, protected the property from destruction and inappropriate development.



Berry Hill, Halifax County— now an international training center under easement.

Berry Hill subsequently proved to be an ideal place for a training center for French-based AXA Corporation, one of the world’s largest insurance companies.

AXA officials, seeking a remote historic site, determined that Berry Hill met their standards for a prestigious training center. In addition to the purchase price, AXA poured \$38 million into the local economy in restoring the house. The easement required that DHR staff review each phase of the project, ensuring that the conversion of the property did not compromise its historic landmark qualities. The restoration, completed this fall, establishes the presence of a world-class company in Virginia – and represents a genuine boom to the local economy.

Easement donations continue to increase, this year rising to 25, up 257% over 1994, as Virginians and international investors exercise stewardship of historic resources. Through accepting these easements, the Commonwealth has established a significant public-private partnership with property owners.

## Executive Mansion

The Executive Mansion, the oldest continuously used governor's mansion in the country, underwent major changes over a six-month period when Governor Jim Gilmore, the First Lady, and their two sons moved out to allow for its complete rehabilitation. Restoration, building, and archaeology teams worked diligently to finish the renovation in time for the First Family to move back in by Thanksgiving. Under the restoration plan, the changes preserved the historic character of the first floor, dating to 1813, while bringing the residence/museum/public office building into the 21<sup>st</sup> century. A lowered basement now accommodates upgrades to the security, administrative, and kitchen areas. State-of-the-art sound, temperature control, and security systems are in place throughout the house. Carriage house spaces serve as offices. ADA improvements, such as an elevator and ramps, allow for greater public accessibility.

DHR staff was involved closely in all stages of the process, from advising the Executive Committee, which guided the renovation led by Roxane G. Gilmore, to conducting an on-site archaeological excavation. Crews discovered artifacts dating to the mid- to late-1800s, which were excavated from the site and conserved. A major exhibition of the artifacts is planned. The discoveries include hundreds of items, including porcelain, stoneware, and even soda bottles from a local grocer dating to



*The First Lady and DHR staff excavate foundation findings at the Executive Mansion.*

the late 1850s. The mansion restoration even drew the attention of the television show “Bob Vila’s Home Again” and was featured on the program in December 1999 – a rerun is slated for June 5, 2000. Multimedia documentation of the restoration will be available at DHR and the Library of Virginia.

---

### **Summary continued from page 9**

their time and energy in assisting with excavation work, surveys, and software development. They are the unsung stewards of Virginia’s prehistoric and historic resources.

Archaeological artifacts unearthed from excavations form an invaluable library of information for researchers. Working in DHR’s new state-of-the-art facility, Department curatorial staff conserved and stabilized 39 collections brought to DHR by other institutions this year. The Department also assumed caretaking responsibilities for these collections.

Archaeological consultants, university teachers and researchers, and professional and avocational archaeologists make up the archaeological community in Virginia. To better coordinate stewardship efforts within the community, the Department convened the Commission on Virginia Archaeology in 1999. The commission was charged with making recommendations to improve communication, partnerships, and efforts to excavate sites, analyze findings, and share archaeological findings via computer technology. The commission’s recommendations involving the Department will be included in next year’s work plan.

**Central Office:**

2801 Kensington Ave.  
Richmond, VA 23221  
(804) 367-2323  
(804) 367-2391 (FAX)

**Portsmouth Region Office:**

612 Court Street, 3<sup>rd</sup> floor  
Portsmouth, VA 23704  
(757) 396-6707  
(757) 396-6712 (FAX)

**Winchester Region Office:**

107 N. Kent Street, Suite 203  
Winchester, VA 22601  
(540) 722-3427  
(540) 722-7535 (FAX)

**Capital Region Office:**

10 Courthouse Avenue  
Petersburg, VA 23803  
(804) 863-1620  
(804) 863-1627 (FAX)

**Roanoke Region Office:**

1030 Penmar Avenue, SE  
Roanoke, VA 24013  
(540) 857-7585  
(540) 857-7588 (FAX)

Visit DHR on the web at:  
[www.dhr.state.va.us](http://www.dhr.state.va.us)

**Virginia Historic Resources Board**

True F. Luck, Chairman, Crozier  
William M. Kelso, Vice Chairman, Jamestown  
M. Karen Berkness, Richmond  
Randolph L. Byrd, Howardsville  
Martin K. King, Warsaw  
Carter F. McNeely (Mrs.), Charlottesville  
Ulysses X. White, Manassas

**State Review Board**

S. Allen Chambers, Chairman, Lynchburg  
Dennis J. Pogue, Vice Chairman, Lake Ridge  
Evelyn D. Chandler, Carrollton  
Jeffrey L. Hantman, Charlottesville  
Warren R. Hofstra, Winchester  
Paul H. Kapp, Galax  
William M. Kelso, Jamestown  
Robert G.D. Pottage III, Halifax Courthouse  
Wendy L. Price, Fredericksburg

*Preservation in Progress is published by the Virginia Department of Historic Resources. Edited by Deborah Woodward.*

*Preservation in Progress was financed in part with federal funds from the U.S. Department of the Interior, through the Department of Historic Resources, Commonwealth of Virginia. Under Title VI of the Civil Rights Act of 1964 and Section 504 of the Rehabilitation Act of 1973, the U.S. Department of the Interior prohibits discrimination on the basis of race, color, national origin, or disability in its federally assisted programs. If you believe that you have been discriminated against in any program or activity described herein, or if you desire further information, please write to: Office of Equal Opportunity, U.S. Department of the Interior, Washington, D.C. 20240. The contents and opinions of this book do not necessarily reflect the views or policies of the Department of the Interior; nor does any mention of trade names or commercial products constitute endorsement or recommendations by the Department of the Interior. The Virginia Department of Historic Resources, in accordance with the Americans with Disabilities Act, will make this publication available in braille, large print, or audiotape upon request. Please allow four to six weeks for delivery.*